

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION

Respondents.

2

1

3 **BOB STUMP - Chairman** 

**COMMISSIONERS** 

SUSAN BITTER SMITH

**BOB BURNS** 

In the matter of:

**GARY PIERCE** 4 **BRENDA BURNS** 

5

6 7

8

9 10

11

12

13 14

15

16 17

18

19 20

21

22

23 24

25

26

27

28

2014 AUG 22 P 3: 23

ALL GORP COMMISSION WUSNET CONTROL

Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

AUG 2 2 2014

DOCKETED BY

DOCKET NO. S-20837A-12-0061

ORIGINAL

EIGHTEENTH (Sets Procedural Conference)

## BY THE COMMISSION:

OUT OF THE BLUE PROCESSORS, LLC, an Arizona limited liability company, d/b/a

Out of the Blue Processors II, LLC; and

MARK STEINER (CRD #1834102) and SHELLY STEINER, husband and wife,

On February 22, 2012, the Securities Division ("Division") of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") filed a Temporary Order to Cease and Desist ("T.O.") and a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing ("Notice") against Out of the Blue Processors, LLC ("OBP"), an Arizona limited liability company dba Out of the Blue Processors II, LLC, and Mark Steiner and Shelly Steiner, husband and wife, (collectively "Respondents"), in which the Division alleged multiple violations of the Arizona Securities Act ("Act") in connection with the offer and sale of securities in the form of certificates of interest or investment contracts.

Respondent spouse, Shelly Steiner, was joined in the action for the purpose of determining the liability of the marital community pursuant to A.R.S. §44-2031(C).

The Respondents were duly served with copies of the T.O. and Notice.

On March 14, 2012, Respondents filed a request for hearing in this matter.

On March 15, 2012, by Procedural Order, a pre-hearing conference was scheduled on April 12, 2012.

On April 10, 2012, Respondents' counsel filed a Motion to Continue the pre-hearing conference because his client was out of the country on business and was not expected to return until the end of the month. It was indicated that the Division did not oppose the motion.

On April 11, 2012, by Procedural Order, the pre-hearing conference was continued to May 16, 2012.

On May 16, 2012, the Division and Respondents appeared with counsel. Counsel for the Division indicated that the parties were discussing the issues raised by the T.O. and Notice, and requested that a status conference be scheduled in approximately 60 days. Respondents agreed with the Division's request to schedule a status conference. Subsequently, by Procedural Order, a status conference was scheduled on July 19, 2012.

On July 19, 2012, the Division and Respondents appeared through counsel at the status conference. Counsel for the Division indicated that the parties were continuing to discuss the issues raised by the T.O. and Notice, and were attempting to reach a settlement in the proceeding. In the interim, the Division requested that another status conference be scheduled in approximately 60 days. Respondents agreed with the Division's request to schedule a status conference.

On July 20, 2012, by Procedural Order, a status conference was scheduled on October 4, 2012.

On October 1, 2012, Respondents filed a Motion to Vacate the status conference scheduled on October 4, 2012, until after October 24, 2012, because Respondent, Mark Steiner, had been out of the country and unable to meet with counsel. Additionally, a meeting had been scheduled between the parties. The Division had no objections to this request.

On October 4, 2012, by Procedural Order, the status conference was continued to November 6, 2012.

On November 1, 2012, Respondents filed a Motion to Vacate the status conference scheduled on November 6, 2012, until after November 25, 2012, due to a number of conflicts on Respondents' counsel's schedule, which were beyond his control. Among the conflicts was the time required to respond to a subpoena from the Division for copies of his clients' records. The Division had no objections to Respondents' Motion to Vacate.

On November 6, 2012, by Procedural Order, the status conference was continued to November 20, 2012.

On November 16, 2012, Respondents filed another Motion to Vacate the status conference scheduled on November 20, 2012, citing additional conflicts and requiring more time to comply with the Division's subpoena. The Division had no objections to this request.

On November 19, 2012, by Procedural Order, the status conference was continued to January 10, 2013.

On January 3, 2013, Respondents filed another Motion to Vacate the status conference scheduled on January 10, 2013, citing more conflicts and scheduling problems.

On January 8, 2013, the Division filed a response arguing that the Respondents' request should be denied.

On January 9, 2013, by Procedural Order, the status conference was continued to January 29, 2013.

On January 29, 2013, at the status conference, the Division and Respondents appeared with counsel and agreed that a hearing be scheduled to commence on July 8, 2013. Subsequently, counsel for the Division requested that a teleconference be scheduled to reschedule the proceeding due to a conflict with his trial schedule.

On January 31, 2013, at the teleconference, the Division and Respondents appeared through counsel to resolve the scheduling conflict with respect to the hearing. After a brief discussion, the parties agreed that the proceeding be scheduled to commence on September 16, 2013, if they were unable to resolve the issues raised by the T.O. and Notice.

On February 4, 2013, by Procedural Order, the hearing was continued to September 16, 2013.

On August 9, 2013, the Division filed a Motion for Leave to Amend Notice. Contemporaneously therewith, the parties filed a Joint Motion for Continuance of the hearing and the deadline to exchange copies of witness and exhibit lists. The joint motion also proposed that a status conference be held on September 16, 2013, to establish new dates for exchanging copies of witness and exhibit lists and for the hearing. Respondents did not file any objections to the Division's Motion for Leave to Amend Notice.

On August 21, 2013, by Procedural Order, the Motion for Leave to Amend Notice was granted as was the Joint Motion for Continuance of the hearing.

On September 6, 2013, the Division filed the Amended Notice.

On September 16, 2013, at the status conference, the Division and Respondents appeared with counsel. Respondents also filed a request for hearing with respect to the Amended Notice. Subsequently, the parties agreed that a hearing to last approximately one week should be scheduled to commence on April 28, 2014, with documents to be exchanged approximately one month earlier.

On September 17, 2013, by Procedural Order, a hearing was scheduled to commence on April 28, 2014.

On October 10, 2013, Respondents filed an Answer to Amended Notice of Opportunity for Hearing Regarding Proposed Order to Cease and Desist, Order for Restitution, Order for Administrative Penalties, Order of Revocation and Order for Other Affirmative Action.

On March 25, 2014, a Joint Stipulation to Extend Deadline for Exchanging Witness Lists and Exhibit Lists ("Joint Stipulation") was filed by Respondents and the Division.

On March 26, 2014, by Procedural Order, the Joint Stipulation was granted.

On April 4, 2014, the Division filed a Motion to Allow Telephonic Testimony during the proceeding. Respondents did not file any objections to the Division's motion.

On April 17, 2014, by Procedural Order, the Division's Motion to Allow Telephonic Testimony was granted.

On April 18, 2014, Respondents filed a Motion to Vacate the hearing scheduled to commence on April 28, 2014, arguing that a large number of Respondents' investors are satisfied with their investments and that the Commission's action may interfere with transactions involving the Respondents' ongoing business opportunities and may inhibit the prospective return expected to be earned by investors.

On April 22, 2014, the Division filed a response opposing the Respondents' Motion to Vacate. In its response, the Division argued that Respondents had ignored the T.O. and continued to illegally offer and sell securities. The Division further argued that Respondents' ability to close transactions was not dispositive of the issues raised by the Notice, but the Respondents' violations of the Act were the controlling factors.

On April 24, 2014, by Procedural Order, Respondents' Motion to Vacate was denied.

On April 28, 2014, the parties filed Joint Fact Stipulations.

Also on April 28, 2014, a full public hearing was commenced before a duly authorized Administrative Law Judge of the Commission at its offices in Phoenix, Arizona. The Division and the Respondents were represented by counsel. Additional days of hearing were held on April 29, 30, and May 1, 2014. At the conclusion of the hearing, a schedule for the filing of post-hearing briefs was established whereby the Division would file an initial brief by June 23, 2014, the Respondents would file a response by July 21, 2014, and the Division would file a reply by August 8, 2014.

On June 23, 2014, the Securities Division filed their Post-Hearing Opening Brief.

On July 21, 2014, Respondents filed a Motion Requesting Extension of Time to File Respondent's [sic] Post-Hearing Brief. Respondents requested an extension of time to file their post-hearing brief by August 12, 2014. The need for the extension of time was attributed to health issues incurred by Respondents' counsel that were unforeseen at the time the briefing schedule was set. The Division did not file an objection to the Respondents' Motion.

On August 1, 2014, by Procedural Order, the Respondents' Motion Requesting Extension of Time to File Respondent's [sic] Post-Hearing Brief was granted. Respondents were ordered to file their Post-Hearing brief on or before August 12, 2014. A corresponding extension of time was allowed for the Division to file its reply brief.

On August 12, 2014, Respondents filed a Motion Requesting Further Extension of Time to File Respondent's [sic] Post-Hearing Brief. Once again, the necessity of the extension was attributed to health issues suffered by Respondents' counsel. Respondents requested a further extension to submit the Post-Hearing brief by August 18, 2014.

On August 13, 2014, the Securities Division filed a Response to Motion Requesting Further Extension of Time to File Respondent's [sic] Post-Hearing Brief. The Division stated that it did not oppose the Respondents' motion for a six-day extension, but the Division would not oppose any future requests for extension.

On August 14, 2014, by Procedural Order, Respondents' Motion Requesting Further Extension of Time to File Respondent's [sic] Post-Hearing Brief was granted. Respondents were ordered to file their Post-Hearing brief on or before August 22, 2014. A corresponding extension of time was allowed for the Division to file its reply brief.

On August 18, 2014, the Commission received a telephone call from Respondent Mark Steiner, informing the Commission that counsel for the Respondents had passed away.

On August 19, 2014, by Procedural Order, a telephonic procedural conference was scheduled for August 22, 2014, to discuss any requested accommodation for the filing of the Respondents' Post-Hearing Brief and the Respondents' plans for continued representation in this matter.

On August 22, 2014, a telephonic procedural conference was held. Respondent Mark Steiner appeared on his own behalf and the Division appeared through counsel. The parties provided information regarding the asserted death of Respondents' counsel. Respondent Mark Steiner stated his desire to obtain new counsel and requested additional time to do so, as well as time for new counsel to adequately prepare the Respondents' Post-Hearing Brief. The parties agreed to an extension of approximately thirty days for Respondent Mark Steiner to obtain new counsel, after which a telephonic procedural conference would be held to set a date by when newly obtained counsel will file the Post-Hearing Brief. Mr. Steiner was advised that while deceased counsel represented all Respondents, Mr. Steiner cannot personally represent Respondent spouse, and whether new counsel will represent all Respondents should be addressed when obtaining counsel.

Accordingly, a procedural conference should be scheduled to discuss a briefing schedule after Respondents have had adequate time to obtain new counsel.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that a telephonic procedural conference shall be held on September 22, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that at the procedural conference, Respondents and/or any newly obtained counsel for the Respondents shall be prepared to discuss scheduling the filing of the Respondents' Post-Hearing Brief.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that on the date of and at least five minutes before the time set for the procedural conference, Respondents and/or Respondents' counsel shall call 1 (800) 689-9374, passcode 415962#, from a landline telephone, to participate telephonically in the procedural conference. The Division shall appear telephonically in the same manner.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED vacating the prior filing deadlines of August 22, 2014, for the Respondents' Post-Hearing Brief and September 9, 2014, for the Division's reply brief.

1	7
2	
3	
4	
5	-
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Ex Parte Rule (A.A.C. R14-3-113-Unauthorized Communications) is in effect and shall remain in effect until the Commission's Decision in this matter is final and non-appealable.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all parties must comply with Rules 31 and 38 of the Rules of the Arizona Supreme Court and A.R.S. § 40-243 with respect to the practice of law and admission pro hac vice.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that withdrawal or representation must be made in compliance with A.A.C. R14-3-104(E) and Rule 1.16 of the Rules of Professional Conduct (under Rule 42 of the Rules of the Arizona Supreme Court). Representation before the Commission includes appearances at all hearings and procedural conferences, as well as all Open Meetings for which the matter is scheduled for discussion, unless counsel has previously been granted permission to withdraw by the Administrative Law Judge or the Commission.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Presiding Administrative Law Judge may rescind, alter, amend, or waive any portion of this Procedural Order either by subsequent Procedural Order or by ruling at hearing.

DATED this  $22^{ND}$  day of August, 2014.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

1	Copies of the foregoing mailed/delivered this 2214 day of August, 2014 to:
2	Mark Steiner and Shelly Steiner 7877 E. Hanover Way
3	Scottsdale, AZ 85255
4	Arthur P. Allsworth 1001 North Central Avenue, Suite 701
5	Phoenix, AZ 85004 Attorney for Respondents
6	Matt Neubert, Director
7	Securities Division ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 1300 West Washington Street
8	Phoenix, AZ 85007
9	COASH & COASH, INC. Court Reporting, Video and Videoconferencing
10	1802 North 7 <sup>th</sup> Street Phoenix, AZ 85006
11	
12	By: Tammy Velarde
13	Assistant to Mark Preny
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	